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Up to April 2, 1968  
**2,822 U.S. planes were  
downed in North Viet Nam**

## STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM ON U.S. "LIMITED BOMBING" OF NORTH VIET NAM

(full text)

**F**OR over ten years now, the U.S. imperialists have been cynically violating the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam, pursuing with might and main a policy of intervention and aggression, and waging a war against the Vietnamese people. Their design is to destroy the position of Viet Nam and to turn South Viet Nam into a U.S. neo-colony and military base. The people of South Viet Nam, united as one man, have risen up in arms and put up a stubborn struggle to defend their fundamental national rights.

Since 1965, in an attempt to improve its losing position and to extricate itself from the South Viet Nam quagmire, the United States has been committing masses of U.S. expeditionary troops to a "local war" in the South; at the same time, it has been waging a war of destruction on the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. It has thus been guilty of an utterly savage crime of aggression against the entire Vietnamese people.

The heroic South Vietnamese people, under the talented leadership of the National Front for Liberation, have fought with unusual courage, defeated one after another all schemes and tricks, however wicked and perfidious, of the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys, and recorded tremendous successes. The widespread offensive and uprisings of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people early this year struck a fatal blow at the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys. Nothing can stave off the imminent collapse of the puppet administration and army, props of U.S. neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam. Nothing can ward off the U.S. aggressors' eventual total defeat.

The valiant North Vietnamese people, firmly resolved to thwart the U.S. imperialists' war of destruction, and to defend their sovereignty and territory, have been inflicting due punishment on the U.S. aggressors.

The Vietnamese people's fight for independence and freedom has entered a new period. The U.S. ultimate defeat is a foregone conclusion. The United

States must bring its aggressive war in Viet Nam to an end, withdraw all U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, and let the Vietnamese people settle themselves the internal affairs of Viet Nam.

The Vietnamese people's stand for peace and independence, as expressed in the four points of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Political Programme of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, embodies the fundamental principles and the main provisions of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam; it is the sound basis for a political settlement of the Viet Nam problem. The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has stated on many occasions: talks between the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the United States will begin as soon as the United States has proved that it has actually ceased unconditionally the bombing raids and all other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

The just position and goodwill attitude of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam have elicited warm sympathy and support from broad sections of public opinion in the world. The peace- and justice-loving peoples all over the five continents insist that the United States must the reasonable and sensible demand of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, stop permanently and unconditionally the bombing raids and all other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and put an end to its aggression against Viet Nam.

Recently, prompted by the U.S. hopeless plight in South Viet Nam and heavy setbacks in the war of destruction in North Viet Nam, faced with great difficulties — political, social and financial — due to the aggressive war in Viet Nam, and under ever stronger pressure from world public opinion and from progressive American opinion, President Johnson had to announce the "limited bombing" of North Viet Nam.

of Thanh Hoa and the city of Vinh.

On April 4 they also struck a locality in Lai Chau province, north-west of Hanoi.

Besides, many U.S. planes flew reconnaissance missions over Quang Ninh (East of Hanoi), Nam Ha and Ninh Binh provinces (respectively 60 km and 80 km South of Hanoi).

Always on the look-out, our A-1A units downed on April 2 a P-4 Phantom fighter-bomber at Thanh Hoa. They also damaged one U.S. plane on April 4 at Thanh Hoa and another one on April 4 at Vinh.

This was an admission of failure but at the same time, a crafty trick of the U.S. Government to placate public opinion. In fact, the U.S. Government keeps sending more U.S. troops to South Viet Nam, makes every effort to strengthen the puppet army, and asks for additional appropriations to pursue its aggressive war in Viet Nam. In fact, the United States continues to bomb an important part of the territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam from the 17th to the 20th parallel, and refuses to stop unconditionally the bombing raids and all other acts of war on the whole territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

It is obvious that the U.S. Government has not seriously and adequately met the legitimate demands of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, of progressive American opinion and of world opinion.

However, for its part, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam declares its readiness to appoint a representative to contact a U.S. representative with a view to ascertaining with the American side the unconditional cessation of the U.S. bombing raids and all other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam so that talks may be started going.

So long as the United States pursues its aggression against Viet Nam, the Vietnamese people, responding to President Ho Chi Minh's sacred appeal, will resolutely fight on till final victory to defend the North, liberate the South, advance towards the peaceful reunification of the country thereby contributing to the defence of peace in Indo-China, South-East Asia and the world.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam earnestly calls on the governments and peoples of the fraternal socialist countries, the peace-loving countries in the world, and the progressive American people to give still stronger support to the legitimate struggle and correct position of the Vietnamese people and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

Hanoi, April 3, 1968

## U.S. Planes Continue Criminal Raids on North Viet Nam

**O**N April 1, at 9:30 hrs, that is a few minutes after Johnson had announced limited U.S. bombing of the area North of the demilitarized zone, U.S. planes came in and sowed destruction and death on many localities in Tinh Gia, Dong Song and Ha Trung districts, Thanh Hoa province, some 120 km South of Hanoi. The same day, they also attacked populated areas in Nghe An and Ha Tinh provinces.

Similar bombing raids took place on the following days. For instance, on April 2 and 4, U.S. planes bombed and strafed the provincial capital

☆ JUST POSITION,  
GOOD WILL  
ATTITUDE

Nhan Dan Editorial of April 4, 1968

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☆ Military Operations  
in South Viet Nam

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## The Truth on Operation Certain Victory

THE U.S. aggressors claim that Operation Certain Victory launched on March 11, 1968, was a "biggest operation in the war" whose objective was to "search and destroy all Viet Cong in the five provinces around Saigon" (The Force of America radio, March 15). This sensational boast can fool nobody...

Recalling the U.S. operation to clear the periphery of Saigon since January 31, A.P.F. on March 15 had the following comment to make about Certain Victory: "A closer look shows that this is a new move and not quite a new operation". In fact what is called bombastically Operation

Certain Victory is but a series of counter-attacks of the U.S. and puppet troops to regain the initiative around Saigon and ease the noose of the people's war around their most important refuge there. With this move, Westmoreland wanted to appear the disconcerted U.S. public opinion with his incompetence in the military agreement of the White House for his request for a troop increase. But what fate is awaiting him? His efforts on the battlefield and his oratory as well could not have him from being scolded...

Not inclining enemy casualties to the losses of the U.S. and puppet troops going on in Tay Ninh, in the first days of this operation, the local troops and guerrillas in the periphery of Sai-

gon and Gia Dinh put out of action 2,965 enemy troops (more than half being G.I.s) and destroyed or damaged 118 tanks and armoured cars.

Operation "Certain Victory" has turned out to be Operation "Certain Defeat".  
Nhan Dan (People) March 31, 1968

## A Trip Shrouded in Secrecy

THREE days after sacking Westmoreland, Johnson called his second in command, General Abrams, back to Washington to report to him on the South Viet Nam situation and receive new instructions. Thus, though still nominal commander of the U.S. forces in South Viet Nam, Westmoreland was officially discarded after Johnson had given him a "big splash" move, a typical illustration of the U.S. way of using generals.

This sudden move was not surprising by the fact that he had come there most hurriedly, received orders which were kept dark and was afterwards rather cautiously in his public utterances. Why was Abrams' trip wrapped up in so much secrecy? As announced by the Pentagon, Abrams returned to the U.S. to "report to Johnson on the strengthening and modernization" of the puppet army. But the matter was not so simple.

As a former general who is U.S. deputy-commander in South Viet Nam recalled to Washington after the dismissal of Westmoreland, Johnson could not but discuss strategic matters and entrust an immediate task. But why had Johnson been so secretive about this move of his? Because he was dead set against the U.S. way of waging war. On the other hand, he feared the protest of the American people and his subordinates the continuation of the present strategy to be brought to his knowledge. In this context, Johnson had to wrap in a shroud of secrecy Abrams' recall to Washington to avoid the glare of publicity which might interfere with his scheme to continue the war. His behaviour betrayed his quixotry, stubbornness and craftiness.

Quoted by Nhan Dan (People's Army) March 31, 1968

## U.S. COLLAPSE IN A SLUMP

PHAM THANH VINH

### MONEY CHAOS

THE capitalist monetary system with the dollar at its head is now undergoing a serious crisis. Following the devaluation of the pound sterling, the dollar, which got its "crown" at Bretton Woods, is now living its last days as reserve currency of the capitalist world. The gold rush in the first two weeks of March has forced the governors of central banks of 100 countries, meeting recently in Washington, to adopt two gold rates, one official to be used in State banks, of 35 dollars an ounce, the other to be determined by the law of supply and demand, but without the participation of the Gold Pool. For all impartial observers, it's the end of the gold exchange standard at the rate of 35 dollars an ounce. Never again will the dollar circulate freely, at its fixed rate with gold. It has indeed lost its privileges as international tender (for the capitalist world) established nearly a quarter of a century ago. This bankruptcy of the dollar is at the same time that of the capitalist monetary system in which most national currencies are aligned on the dollar. The Western press has been alluding to the general crisis of the years 1929-1933. It would be interesting to point out the fundamental causes of the present chaos in the capitalist monetary system and to study them in direct relation to the U.S. policy of expansion and war which it is waging in Viet Nam. The U.S. war in Viet Nam is being lost, following over 100,000 casualties, defeat after defeat, and relentless attacks by the People's Liberation Armed Forces.

### U.S. WAR IN SOUTH VIET NAM, A DIRECT CAUSE OF THE DEPRECIATION OF THE DOLLAR

THE U.S. policy of intensification and expansion of the war in South and North Viet Nam necessarily entails the swelling of war budgets. War expenditures, which totalled 4.1 billion dollars for the ten-year period from 1955 to 1964, skyrocketed above the American balance of G.I.s to South Viet Nam and the air war of destruction against North Viet Nam: 1.5 billion for 1965, 1.6 billion for 1966, 30 billion for 1967 (according to official figures published in the press and not including indirect war expenditures). This sudden swelling of war budgets has been the cause of budget deficits unprecedented in American history: 1.9 billion in 1966, 3.5 billion in 1967. The deficit has been made good mostly through inflation. Externally, in spite of a favourable balance of trade, to which have been added restrictive measures aimed at limiting U.S. expenditures abroad, the American balance of payments still shows a big deficit (3.7 billion in 1967 alone). This gold hemorrhage has become incurable for the U.S. as the balance of payments of the capitalist country. Its gold reserves, estimated at 10.5 billion in 1965, fell by half after ten years, to 5 billion in October 1967. Within four months, this stock, already too small, has been reduced to short-term debts (estimated at 30 billion dollars) and by 2.5 billion to 10.7 billion on March 20, 1968. In this monetary crisis, the main capitalist capitalis-

tic crisis of capitalism. It draws a comparison between the present chaos and the crisis of 1929. It foresees that the prolongation of this monetary crisis will certainly lead to world economic crisis. It even says that the spectre of a looming large. It reveals that the fundamental cause of this crisis lies in the weakening of the United States due to its policy of expansion and war. It forecasts that in 1968 the United States will not be able to balance its budget or to stop its gold outflow. The Viet Nam war, it says, is draining the U.S. of the dollar because of its financial requirements: "The Viet Nam war is the graveyard of the dollar".

Thus the present monetary crisis conjures up the spectre of economic depression. This is true when one considers not only the external symptoms but also the deep-lying reasons. Indeed it is common knowledge that the general crisis of capitalism has only been delayed by war. The Second World War brought the capitalist world on the verge of a sharp economic slump. Only a few years after the end of the war, the United States, the great power from the war, having collected more than half the total amount of gold in the capitalist world, was again faced with an "over production" crisis. The U.S. dollar, the United States has militarized its economy, set up military blocs, and through the pernicious use of foreign "aid", turned recipient countries into huge markets for American surplus goods and antiquated war equipment. It is a policy of expansion and war which has brought the U.S. to the present monetary crisis. At a given moment, this policy brought in a shooting war with the U.S. in Viet Nam. Eventually, the swelling of war expenditures will have repercussions on the economy and money. It is then general chaos in the monetary, monetary and economic.

### VICIOUS CYCLE: MONETARY CHAOS, ECONOMIC CRISIS AND WAR

WORLD press opinion is unanimous in seeing that in this monetary crisis, a forerunner of a general

The present crisis of the dollar is part of the general crisis of capitalism. It testifies to the real weakness of the economic, social and political system of the United States in spite of its tremendous material wealth and technical know-how, just as the defeats suffered by the half-million-strong American expeditionary corps in South Viet Nam, especially in Viet Nam, are reciprocal cause-effect relationships. The U.S. has on each other's side, eventually causing the total failure of U.S. policy of expansion and war in Viet Nam and the world. Any measure taken by the Johnson administration to bring an end to the war in Viet Nam is doomed to failure. The adoption of two gold markets, just like the planned institution of "special issuing rights" will never succeed in balancing U.S. finances and has penetrated within two years into other fields, namely to improve traffic on roads hampered by obstacles and difficulties, combine various communication means (roads, railways, rivers, sea routes), work out plans for clearing vital, communication junctions of obstacles, to use the PERT (abbreviation for French Programme d'Evaluation et de Revision de la technique) method of assembling or dismantling buildings, roads, making or repairing transport means.

### THE TUNNEL WITH NO END IN SIGHT AND THE NECESSARY REVISION OF THE U.S. POLICY OF WAR

BEFORE the three years (1965-1968), in spite of the U.S. war of destruction, Operational Research in the D.R.V.N. has been steadily growing into a mass movement. Before 1965, the application of this scientific method was confined within about thirty enterprises and a few high schools and centres of scientific research. It has now spread to all levels of the economy and fifty enterprises, nearly all higher schools, secondary technical schools and general education schools, but also to offices, factories, construction sites, agricultural and handicraft co-ops, etc. In several economic branches, it has helped improve the organization and planning of production, rationalize the use of equipment, materials and manpower, and raise productivity.

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## THE NORTH GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH

### D.R.V.N. WARTIME ECONOMIC AND MILITARY POTENTIAL ON THE UPGRADE

Recently, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly of the D.R.V.N. held a regular session to consider the 1968 state plan. We give below some excerpts of the communiqué issued at the end of the meeting:

THE Standing Committee of the National Assembly notes that over the past three years, despite the fierceness of the U.S. war of destruction, our people have overcome all difficulties and successfully fulfilled the state plan. Production has been maintained and developed as scheduled. The needs of the fighting and the people have been met. The economic and military potential of the D.R.V.N. has been on the increase.

...The Standing Committee of the National Assembly calls on all our cadres, fighters and people to live with one another in patriotic

activities, to be resolute to defeat the aggressor, to contribute their utmost to the defence of the North, liberation of the South and eventual reunification of the country, and surmount all difficulties in order to fulfil the 1968 state plan, namely:

- Mobilize all human, material and financial resources, exert all efforts in order to secure victory;
- Consolidate further the socialist relations of production and set up material and technical bases of socialism, step up production and economy, safeguard and boost the economic and military potential of the country to the highest degree possible;
- Satisfy the requirements of the people;
- Improve and strengthen economic management, mobilize vigorously the forces of the masses;
- Effectively prepare for a new development in the coming years.

Communications are guaranteed under any circumstances

### APPLIED SCIENCES IN THE D.R.V.N.

## OPERATIONAL RESEARCH SERVES PRODUCTION AND FIGHTING

OVER the three years (1965-1968), in spite of the U.S. war of destruction, Operational Research in the D.R.V.N. has been steadily growing into a mass movement. Before 1965, the application of this scientific method was confined within about thirty enterprises and a few high schools and centres of scientific research. It has now spread to all levels of the economy and fifty enterprises, nearly all higher schools, secondary technical schools and general education schools, but also to offices, factories, construction sites, agricultural and handicraft co-ops, etc. In several economic branches, it has helped improve the organization and planning of production, rationalize the use of equipment, materials and manpower, and raise productivity.

Transport and communication

ations was the first branch to benefit by the effective application of Operational Research. After the first successful tests in 1961, Operational Research has been applied to the utilization of vehicles with a view to eliminating empty runs. It has penetrated within two years into other fields, namely to improve traffic on roads hampered by obstacles and difficulties, combine various communication means (roads, railways, rivers, sea routes), work out plans for clearing vital, communication junctions of obstacles, to use the PERT (abbreviation for French Programme d'Evaluation et de Revision de la technique) method of assembling or dismantling buildings, roads, making or repairing transport means.

In capital construction, by applying Operational Research, construction sites 100 built a factory in 30 days by 50 percent, a time-construction site X completed a building two months ahead of schedule while raising

ized their production chains have raised their production by 20-70 per cent. In agriculture, the application of Operational Research has proved very difficult because of the lack of stability and accuracy of the data. However, the field of agricultural co-operatives and State farms in the neighbourhood of Hanoi, in the Red River delta, in Northern Trung Bo and of Vinh Luan have successfully applied this science to the distribution of land according to the crops grown, the rotation of crops, the working out of plans for animal husbandry, the determination of adequate ratio for pigs, etc. In the neighbourhood of Hanoi, the "Viet Nam-China Friendship" co-operative has reduced the number of workers by 8 and save 39 quintals of fertilizer for one crop on an area of 1.1 hectares - the Khuyen Luong co-operative.

Put at the service of production and the fighting, Operational Research in North Viet Nam offers bright prospects.

## News in Brief

FOREIGN Minister Nguyen Dan Truoc in an interview with the press declared that the United Arab Republic severely condemned the Israeli reactionary ruling circles' invasion and illegal occupation of part of the territory of the U.A.R., the Arab Republic of Syria and other Arab countries, and their extremely barbarous persecution of the Arab peoples in the areas under their control.

The D.R.V.N. Foreign Minister expressed the Vietnamese people and the D.R.V.N.'s militant solidarity with, and total support for, the Governments and peoples of the Arab countries in their legitimate struggle for their control.

HOANG VAN LOI, Vice Foreign Minister and envoy of the Government of the D.R.V.N. has left Hanoi for friendship visits to a number of countries in Africa, Middle and Near East.

UPON learning that Madame Le Thi Kiem, member of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and Vice-President of the South Viet Nam Liberation Women's Union, had been murdered by the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen - the Thieu-Ky clique - the Viet Nam Women's Union and many women of Hanoi, Haiphong, Ha Tay, Thanh Hoa and other towns and provinces of Viet Nam held meetings and adopted petitions strongly condemning this murder, and voicing their determination to achieve greatest results in their fighting and protection to avenge the South Viet Nam woman patriot.

THE Ministry of Public Health of the D.R.V.N. on March 30, 1968, issued a statement condemning the Thieu-Ky regime for having failed to take active and resolute measures to check the epidemic plague which, for many years now, has been prevalent in South Viet Nam. In the first month of this year this calamity took a toll of lives and has become a permanent threat to the South Vietnamese people.

IN the last days of March, 1968 many workers worked at the "March 8" textile factory raised their daily production quota from 27 to 31 meters. Lei Tan No broke the record by turning out on an average 40 metres per machine.

THE land transport service just held a conference of young combatants against U.S. aggression, 9,770 youths, 176 groups and sub-groups of youths have been awarded the title of "valiant young transport workers".

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# JUST POSITION, GOOD WILL ATTITUDE

Nhan Dan Editorial of April 4, 1968

On March 31, 1968 speech, U.S. President Johnson announced his order for a halt in the attacks by U.S. aircraft and naval vessels on North Viet Nam, "except in the area around the demilitarized zone and called for 'talks' to move towards peace."

JOHNSON took this decision just at a moment when the U.S. government was faced with unprecedented great difficulties arising out of its war of aggression in Viet Nam.

In South Viet Nam, following the ignominious failure of the U.S. "special war," the U.S. "local war" virtually gone bankrupt and the armed forces of the U.S. and its henchmen have been suffering one defeat after another, each heavier than the last, especially since the start of the general offensive and widespread uprisings of the South Viet Nam Liberation Armed Forces and people. The U.S. is now in the defensive strategically while the P.L.A.F. are holding the initiative on all battlefields.

The U.S. has also failed in its war of destruction, mainly due to its air force, against North Viet Nam. Its nearly three thousand of its modern aircraft have been blown to pieces and thousands of U.S. pilots have been wiped out or captured by the armed forces and people of North Viet Nam, and all of the objectives of the U.S. in this war not a single one has been achieved.

Meanwhile in the world, because of its unjust war and its savage crimes against the Vietnamese people, the U.S. is faced with growing opposition from the peoples of various countries, and finds itself in utter isolation. The U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam has also triggered off a rising protest movement among the American people. At the same time, it is confronting the U.S. government with a series of political, military, economic and social problems, and has embittered the existing inner dissensions in the United States and among the U.S. ruling circles.

Caught between the hammer and

the anvil, the U.S. administration had to do something and Johnson, though reluctantly, had to announce a limit to the war of destruction against North Viet Nam. This obviously is tantamount to a defeat of the U.S. aggressor, a victory for the Vietnamese people in their U.S. aggression struggle for national independence and a success for the world peoples' opposition to the U.S. imperialist aggressors.

On the other hand, Johnson's March 31 declaration and the subsequent acts of the U.S. aggressors have made it clear that the U.S. government remains obstinate and has not given up its sinister aggressive design against South Viet Nam, which design is transparent in Johnson's very "limited bombing" concerning North Viet Nam. Contrary to the expectations of some circles in the U.S. ruling apparatus itself "the area north of the demilitarized zone" referred to by Johnson comprises a very large area from the 17th to the 20th parallel, and, according to U.S. generals in Saigon, U.S. aircraft are authorized to attack the whole area from the demilitarized zone up to only a few dozen miles south of the U.S. capital.

In the past few days since Johnson made his announcement, U.S. aircraft have conducted continuous attacks, with bombings on various densely populated areas in Thanh Hoa province, causing them great losses in lives and property. Meanwhile, U.S. air reconnaissance missions have in the past few days been stepped up in every part of North Viet Nam.

In his statement, Johnson reiterated U.S. determination to keep its "commitments" to its puppets in Saigon, and bragged about the "strength" of the U.S. To show that there is no change in the U.S. policy, Johnson also decided to send 15,500 additional troops to South Viet Nam, and spend another 3.5 billion dollars on the Viet Nam war in this fiscal year.

In a word, in the context of the current "limited bombing," the U.S. continues its savage raids on an important part of the territory of North Viet Nam, goes on with its other war of aggression against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and keeps demanding the Vietnamese people to decrease their fight against aggression, while the U.S. keeps strengthening its own forces and the puppet army in South Viet Nam.

The ulterior motive of Johnson's move itself is to demand "reciprocity" for the cessation of the U.S. bombing of North Viet Nam and to set terms for the withdrawal of U.S. troops, which conditions have been categorically rejected by the Vietnamese people. The words and deeds of the U.S. aggressors have proved that despite their heavy setbacks they are pursuing with obduracy their aggressive design in South Viet Nam, and that their "limited bombing" is but a cunning trick to soothe public opinion in the world and the United States.

The U.S. war of aggression against Viet Nam and U.S. policy in South Viet Nam, which Johnson has again recalled, have encroached on the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Viet Nam, grossly violated the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam and international law, and are completely at variance with the sound and just position of the Vietnamese people. This has been the basis for the four points of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Political Programme of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation. It also is a faithful reflection of the basic principles of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam, and constitutes the correct basis for a political solution of the Viet Nam problem.

The "limited bombing" decided by Johnson does not meet the just demands of the Vietnamese people and the world's peoples. We insist that the U.S. must permanently, completely and unconditionally put an end to the bombing and all other wars against the whole territory of North Viet Nam.

On April 3, 1968, our Government issued a statement severely denouncing the perfidious scheme and trick of the U.S. and reiterating the just position and giving a fresh proof of the goodwill of our government and people. The statement said: "It is obvious that the U.S. Government has not seriously and adequately met the legitimate demands of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, of progressive American opinion and of world opinion. However, for its part, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam declares its readiness to appoint a representative to contact a U.S. representative with a view to ascertaining with the American side the unconditional cessation of the U.S. bombing and all other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam so that talks may be started going."

The statement of our Government once again threw light on the sensible and consistent position of our people which is to resolutely fight the U.S. aggressors until final victory to defend independence and freedom and to fulfill our aspiration for genuine peace on the basis of the guarantee for our sacred national rights. In many statements it has issued since January 26, 1967, our Government has made it clear that talks between the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the United States will begin as soon as the United States had proved that it has actually stopped unconditionally the bombing raids and all other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

Our Government's attitude has always been one of goodwill and one which means business. The April 3, 1968 declaration of our Government meets the aspirations of the world peoples who cherish independence, peace and justice, and will surely receive widespread sympathy and support in the world.

Our people fully approve it. We demand that the U.S. ruling circles stop permanently and unconditionally the bombing and all other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and let the aggression in Viet Nam, withdraw all U.S. and satellite troops from Viet Nam and let the Vietnamese people settle by themselves their own affairs.

In face of the U.S. imperialists' perfidious scheme of pursuing and intensifying their aggressive war, our armed forces and people as a whole, constantly heightening their vigilance and fearlessness of all sacrifices and hardships, are determined to bring the fight against U.S. aggression, for national salvation to complete victory.

To defeat U.S. aggression, the P.L.A.F. have not only been engaged in putting out and action the largest number possible of U.S. aggressors, mercenaries from satellite countries and troops of the puppet army. Systematic attacks aimed at destroying the maximum amount of U.S. war installations and materials ranging from logistic bases and storage depots to means of land, air, sea or river transport, also constitute one of their main activities. There has been not a month during these past years without burnings of fuel and ammunition depots, intensive poundings of airfields, surprise attacks on truck, armored car or helicopter parking grounds, and artillery or minisatellite attacks against freighters, military transports or patrol boats on rivers or at ports.

Enemy losses in this sector were particularly heavy during the Tet offensive and concerted uprisings which are still going on. According to successive communiques issued by the P.L.A.F. command, between Jan. 30 and March 15, 1968 the Liberation Front attacks destroyed 50 airfields and destroyed or heavily damaged 2,000 aircraft (nearly 40 percent of the enemy aerial strength), 3,500 military vehicles and 1,750 tanks and armored cars (one-third of the enemy armored force). They also knocked out of use more than 300 cannons and howitzers, sank or damaged 233 military vessels and launches, blew up 350 bridges and destroyed 300 storage depots.

Five characteristics mark this first storm over the logistic bases and storage depots where U.S. puppet means of war are stockpiled:

1. Struck in force, these blows are often directed in a simultaneous fashion against the most sophisticated equipment in the most important points on the whole territory. Thus, in the first night of the ge-

# SHARP FALL IN SOUTH VIET NAM ENEMY WAR POTENTIAL

Jan. 30 in 7 provinces from Da Nang to Ban Me Thuot, 22 U.S. puppet bases and storerooms came under attack including 15 airfields and the huge fuel depot at Lien Chien, near Da Nang. Next day, it was the turn of some 50 of these bases (including 19 airfields), the most important being the Tan Son Nhut (Saigon) and Da Nang air bases, and the Long Binh logistic complex near Bien Hoa, the biggest in South Viet Nam. On the night of Feb. 18, 21 of such bases were attacked in Nam Bo alone. (former Cochinchina).

On the night of March 3 to March 4, such air bases as Da Nang and Nuoc Man (helicopter parking lot East of Da Nang), artillery positions, vehicle and armour parks etc., in 7 different places in all sustained serious damage.

These attacks confronted the Americans with a very hard problem. They were most short of war material at a moment when they were most badly needing them. This enabled the P.L.A.F. to inflict on them even more serious losses in manpower as shown by events in Hue where more than 20,000 men of the enemy forces were put out of action.

2. The target bases, especially the Tan Son Nhut ones, had been hit on many occasions. Such was the case, for instance, of the Da Nang and Ban Me Thuot, the storage depots at Long Binh and those at Cia Viet, a forward base catering for the

whole Highway No 9 sector close to the demilitarized zone. Most striking was the case of Tan Son Nhut airbase. This airbase, "one of the world's busiest" where, in 1967, according to Reuters (Mar. 29 1968) there was a landing or a take-off every 15 seconds and where the

H.Q. of Westmoreland and the private residence of puppet King are located, this "well guarded and defended" place was subjected to a dozen old P.L.A.F. raids in the past 4 months, either by artillery bombardment or even by specially armoured, Douc-sons of costly aircraft, thou-

in Hue, many landing craft and tanks were sunk or burnt.

5. Actively supported by the people, the P.L.A.F. command has varied and effective tactics and means to achieve their objectives.

The P.L.A.F. gunners earn the admiration of even their adversaries by their audacity, their ingenuity and the effectiveness of their fire. Nowadays, not a single U.S. base is immune from their devastating blows.

The infantry attacks, breaking through defence perimeters in spite of a warning system dotted with most sophisticated detecting devices, also strike deep into the hearts of Amer-



After liberating Huong Hoa, P.L.A.F. fighters make use of enemy installations

sands of tons of fuel and ammunition and quantities of the most sophisticated equipment were destroyed at this base lying, however, next door to Saigon.

3. These destructive blows have spared no enemy means of war brought at a high cost into South Viet Nam. Nevertheless, some of those vital importance have been selected targets, like aircraft and helicopters, warships, tanks and armoured cars, artillery positions, radar telecommunication and signal centres, ammunition, fuel, chemicals and food storage depots, etc. Thus, for instance, on Feb. 18, while planes, gasoline and bombs were blasted at Tan Son Nhut, the Phu Lam air base, next door to Cholon (Saigon's twin city) the artillery positions at Binh Chanh (about 10 km Southwest of Saigon, as well as ammunition dumps and a large load of shells at Binh Loi (Saigon's northern outskirts) were severely pounded and heavily damaged.

4. The enemy suffered serious losses in terms of logistic reserves and means of war, both in his rear and his forward bases. Thus, on the night of Jan. 30 to Jan. 31, several U.S. armoured cars were destroyed in the glorious victory of the Hue people.

icans in South Viet Nam. Was it that Western news agencies reported for several days running in February last that N.P.L. fighters were sighted "moving freely inside Tan Son Nhut airbase"?

The U.S. Expeditionary Corps and the puppet army base their strategy and tactics on technical and material facilities put at their disposal by the U.S. economic and military potentials. The G.I. would not dare move forward without air, armour and artillery support which consumes daily a huge quantity of fuel and munitions. To maintain his morale, hot meals and pressed clothes are brought him by air, even to outposts. Water has also been supplied by air. One can see then in what embarrassment the U.S. command has found itself when the P.L.A.F. had within its grasp the means to destroy 40 per cent of their logistic reserves. Their mobility and fire-power, the trump cards much relied by the U.S. aggressors, have been reduced considerably, and it takes them time and plenty of money and means to be able to tide over the handicap. In addition to the already insurmountable political, military, economic and social difficulties, in South Viet Nam, these disaster of the Americans contribute to hastening their doom.

# Recent Exploits of People's Militiamen in D.R.V.N.

In March, out of a total of 10 U.S. planes downed by D.R.V.N. defence, 15 were grounded by rural militiamen. 6 of them at night; they included 8 A-6 Intruders, especially built for night and all-weather missions, 4 Phantom spy planes and 3 F-4 Phantoms. In Tan Binh province 3 A-6 were downed (2 on the night of March 13). On March 26, another A-6 was knocked down by young girls of Thanh Hoa province.

RURAL militiamen of Ha Bac province brought down 4 planes, 2 of which were planes. Those of Quang Trach district, Quang Binh province, bagged 2 A-6s within 4 days.

On March 27, a group of militiamen aged between 30 and 37, grounded a jet plane over Ha Tinh province with 50

machinegun bullets.

On March 27, an A-6 battery manned by young girls in N. village, Quang Nam, damaged a U.S. ship bearing No 770. These "gunners" of the rural militia, recommended by President Ho Chi Minh on the occasion of their first victory on February 7, over another ship of the U.S. 7th Fleet.



Young militiamen in Thanh Hoa province

# A COMBATANT MOTHER

A few days after Xuan had had her baby, the city of Hue was again the theatre of the revolution. Weak as she was, Xuan could not let her be because the dream she had been nurturing so long was now coming true. She sat up and laboured her way to the door. Through a slit in the door she saw a group of Liberation Army fighters and self-defence guards dashing across the street like arrows.

Xuan felt as if all her tiredness had suddenly gone. An irresistible impulse made her to come out and join in the fight. But her legs were as heavy as lead and everything swam before her eyes. Xuan had to clutch at the door edge so as not to collapse. The cries of the baby sent her back to bed.

She took the child in her

arms, softly kissed its cheek and said in a caressing voice, "Come out and see how our men fight the enemy. You'll be very happy because there will be no more Yankee aggressors here!"

With the child in her arms, Xuan, however, felt very miserable at being confined to her room. She was unable to take part in the fight. "It is now or never if I want to fight a rifle but there are many other ways to fight them," she said to herself.

Xuan laid down the child and went out. Her husband, a fighter ran past the door. She called out to him "There is a wicked puppet officer at number 24. Go there and get him. He has just fired a shot on the street."

The Liberation fighter did as she told him to. He climbed to the second floor and

found a puppet officer pointing his machine gun over the street. He ordered, "Put down your gun and hands up!"

As the puppet officer resisted, he finished him with a burst of his submachinegun. "He went back to Xuan's house, 'Do you know where other cruel agents live?'"

There came three other Liberation fighters. Xuan gave them the address of each cruel thief in the area, and by so doing helped the revolutionaries around force to kill or capture nearly 50 puppet officers and personnel with long records of crimes against the population, she thus had a worthy share in the glorious victory of the Hue people.



THE WHOLE WORLD IS ON OUR SIDE

## THE VICTORIES THAT BOAST OUR FRIENDS

THE recent powerful general offensives of the patriotic armed forces on the towns and cities of U.S. military bases in South Vietnam came as a great surprise and have been in the headlines of world press.

The highest praise and greatest encouragement came from the brother socialist countries which shared the same ideal with the Vietnamese people and regarded our struggle against U.S. aggression as the common struggle of the socialist camp.

The leaders and peoples of socialist countries unanimously remarked that the early spring victories of the South Vietnamese people heralded a new important turn in their struggle.

A.N. Kossygin, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R., declared, "The South Vietnamese people fight very bravely and score tremendous victories. The entire Soviet people are very gratified at the splendid success won by the South Vietnamese people in their fight against U.S. aggression. They greatly admire the Vietnamese people's valiant struggle."

Chou En-lai, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China, declared, "These happy tidings tell the Chinese people with great joy and enthusiasm. These victories indicate that the South Vietnamese people's war against U.S. aggression and for national salvation has reached a new and higher level of development. They have once more proved its unlimited might."

Hundreds of meetings welcoming the victories of the South Vietnamese people have taken place in the Soviet Union, China and other socialist countries; at these meetings, the people of those countries expressed their warmest congratulations.

EARLY 25,000 women and girls of minority nationalities in the countryside of four out of the five provinces in the Viet Nam Autonomous Zone (the hamlet and mountain area of North Viet Nam) are attending complementary education classes.

Other countries have reiterated their determination to support and help our people to defeat the U.S. aggressors. The statement of countries members of the Warsaw Treaty Organization held in Sofia (Bulgaria) early in March 1968 made it abundantly clear that the socialist countries which agreed that statement were ready to send even volunteers to Viet Nam if necessary.

The anti-U.S. struggle for national salvation of the Vietnamese people is the spearhead of the national liberation movement in the world. That is why the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America, first and foremost the Cambodian and Lao peoples — our comrades-in-arms in the same front line of the anti-U.S. struggle in Indo-China — wholeheartedly welcome and support our just struggle and condemn the aggression of the U.S. imperialists.

The Royal Government of Cambodia, in a statement issued on March 1, 1968, declared, "It welcomes the recent victory of the Vietnamese people's nationwide resistance against U.S. imperialism. These victories are a strong encouragement to all countries and peoples who are struggling to recover and safeguard their independence. In spite of its overwhelming superiority in material power, in spite of its most up-to-date weapons and methods of terror, the United States has not been forced to recognize its powerlessness in face of the determination of the Vietnamese patriots."

The thunder blows dealt by South Vietnamese people at the U.S., the foremost imperialist aggressor, the most wicked exploiter in the world, are a great inspiration to the Vietnamese people's war for peace, justice and freedom, peace and justice-loving people in capitalist countries, who are capitalist enemies, who.

Through the movement in support of Viet Nam and of protest against the U.S. policy of aggression and war, the South Vietnamese people in the past two months, it is apparent that the overwhelming majority of the peoples of various countries regard the crushing victories of the South Viet Nam Liberation armed forces and people as of paramount military and political significance.

The role and position of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. has been prominently reflected in the world. The world's peoples warmly welcomed the correct position and role of the South Vietnamese government as expressed again in the February 8, 1968 statement of the Foreign Minister Nguyen Van Thieu.

After overfilling the plan of the 1st quarter of 1968 43 days ahead of schedule, the workers at the "Coc 6" mine in Quang Ninh soon volunteered to extract an additional 10,000 tons of coal. Many teams and brigades have increased their daily efficiency from 10 to 300 per cent.

have been constantly opposing the U.S. unjust war and barbarous crimes in Viet Nam. They are overjoyed to see that the cruel acts of war of the U.S. are unable to subdue the Vietnamese people and that the more the U.S. step up the war, the more bitter defeats it suffers. Angry demonstrations took place in the past two months in France, Italy, Britain, West Germany and other countries during which the participants displayed the South Viet Nam N.F.L. flag, chanted slogans in support of Viet Nam and attacked U.S. embassies and offices. Some governments of West European and Scandinavian countries raised their voices in union with those of hundreds of millions of people to demand that the U.S. government end its war escalation and change its Viet Nam policy.

In the United States, the recent anti-war movement has shown hopeful signs. To whip up racial hatred among the American people, the U.S. authorities used the slogan "Support our G.I.'s in Viet Nam" which has been widely spread by the American people's watchmen. "Support our G.I.'s in Viet Nam" by sending them home. The end-of-the-war and anti-war movement is gaining momentum. Many American youths have burnt their draft cards to show their resolve not to fight in Viet Nam. Hundreds more deserted the army and went to Canada, France, Sweden or other countries so as not to be sent to Viet Nam to kill and be killed there. Many prominent figures in the U.S. political, religious and academic circles also vehemently protested against Johnson's military adventure and seized the opportunity to call for an overall revision of the U.S. "commitment" policy in the world which is based on a policy of intervention and aggression, an international garrison's policy.

The world's people have stepped up their action for the unconditional halt of the bombing and other acts of war against the D.R.V.N., for an end to U.S. aggression in South Viet Nam and withdrawal of U.S. troops, for the withdrawal of U.S. troops. The stubbornness of the U.S. imperialists at a time when they have suffered lamentable setbacks, the frantic crimes against South Viet Nam towns and North Viet Nam populated areas including Catholic areas, only exaggerate the anger of men of goodwill and increase the aggressors' isolation. In spite of this obstinacy, the French paper "Express", in its February 27-28, 1968 issue, compared Johnson to a swimmer upstream in a swift river with heavy pieces of lead on his arms and legs.

The U.S. authorities claim that the Liberation armed forces have "failed" in their objectives. But the world press, with different ways of putting it, is unanimous to say that defeat is on the side of the U.S. Many Western papers wrote that formerly some people had said, "The Viet Nam war will end in a draw," now they draw the conclusion that the U.S. will probably be defeated. They pointed out that U.S. strategy is in a

## D.R.V.N. FOREIGN MINISTRY DENOUNCES WEST GERMAN IMPERIALISM'S EXPANSIONIST REVANCHIST POLICY

ON March 30, 1968, the D.R.V.N. Foreign Ministry issued a statement calling attention to the present danger of aggression and revanchism of the West German imperialists.

The statement made clear that in his State of the nation message to the Bundestag on March 11, 1968, Chancellor Kiesinger called for a "powerful, modernized equipped army" for West Germany; he also advocated a unified Europe which in essence is a scheme to rule over Europe.

The statement said that the Kiesinger government stubbornly ignored the existence as a state of the German Democratic Republic, the constant acts of slander and provocations against the G.D.R. and many illegal acts in West Berlin in an attempt to seize it to West Germany.

The statement laid bare the deceitful "peace" allegations of the Kiesinger government which insolently demanded a revision of the present European borders, refused to recognize from the beginning the invalidity of the Munich Treaty, and schemed to isolate the G.D.R. and weaken and drive a wedge between the European socialist countries.

The statement made plain that the West German imperialists had lent a helping hand to the U.S. imperialists in their global strategy and wrote, "The people and government of the D.R.V.N. strongly condemn this reactionary policy of the West German ruling circles. They demand that the U.S. government should defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity, which is an important contribution to the strengthening of the peace and stability of the camp, and the defence of peace and security of Europe and the world."

Regarding the attitude of the West German Government in the Viet Nam war, the statement stressed that the Vietnamese people strongly protest against the perfidious joining of hands of the West German Government with the U.S. imperialists in the war of aggression in Viet Nam and demand that the West German government immediately stop this criminal collusion.

The world's people have stepped up their action for the unconditional halt of the bombing and other acts of war against the D.R.V.N., for an end to U.S. aggression in South Viet Nam and withdrawal of U.S. troops, for the withdrawal of U.S. troops. The stubbornness of the U.S. imperialists at a time when they have suffered lamentable setbacks, the frantic crimes against South Viet Nam towns and North Viet Nam populated areas including Catholic areas, only exaggerate the anger of men of goodwill and increase the aggressors' isolation. In spite of this obstinacy, the French paper "Express", in its February 27-28, 1968 issue, compared Johnson to a swimmer upstream in a swift river with heavy pieces of lead on his arms and legs.

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## THUA THIEN — HUE PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE SETS FREE TWO AMERICAN WOMEN

HAIPHONG Press Agency on March 25 released the following communiqué of the People's Revolutionary Committee of Thua Thien — Hue on the setting free of two American women:

"During their attack on Hue city, the Thua Thien — Hue revolutionary armed forces took into custody two American women, namely Sandra Johnson, member of the so-called 'International Volunteers Group,' professor of English at the Dong Khanh Secondary Girl School, and Marjorie Nelson, physician. While in temporary detention, the two women evinced some measure of sympathy with the Vietnamese people's struggle for

national independence and peace.

The Vietnamese people who feel an implacable hatred for the U.S. imperialists always make a clear distinction between the ring-leaders of aggression, who have blood debts to the people, and those who are for one reason or another connected with the war machine of the U.S. Government and the Saigon puppet administration. The Saigon puppet administration must be fully responsible for the safety of Sandra Johnson and Marjorie Nelson on their way back home.

Prompted by the traditional humanitarianism of the Vietnamese people and the lenient policy of the revolutionary power, and considering the attitude of the American women concerned, the People's Revolutionary Committee of Thua Thien — Hue decided to set them free by April 1, 1968. The People's Revolutionary Committee of Thua Thien — Hue wishes to announce this decision to Sandra Johnson and M. Nelson's families and to the American and world peoples.

The U.S. Government and the Saigon puppet administration must be fully responsible for the safety of Sandra Johnson and Marjorie Nelson on their way back home.

Thua Thien — Hue March 25, 1968  
For the People's Revolutionary Committee of Thua Thien — Hue  
President  
Professor LE VAN HAO

### In the U.S.

## More U.S. Scientists and Officials Oppose U.S. Government's Viet Nam War of Aggression

THE anti Viet Nam war movement is now spreading to American civil servants. An organization of the civil servants opposing the war in Viet Nam has just been established.

In defiance of the law which makes liable to dismissal officials who participate in the anti-war movement, up to now 2,500 American civil servants have signed a petition to Johnson condemning the U.S. war in Viet Nam and demanding that Johnson renounce his escalations.

The collection of signatures is going on.

MANY American scientists protested against the U.S. Administration for having forced them to produce goods for the war in Viet Nam.

They refused to co-operate with government agencies specializing in war material.

P. Doty, Professor of Chemistry at the Harvard University, and Economist Ayres, Chairman of the American Scientific Research Institute, have collected 200 signatures of American scholars in a petition against the U.S. war in Viet Nam.

The Chicago University has declared the breaking off of its relations with the Defense Institute which is controlled by the U.S. Defense Department.

## U.S. DOLLAR IN A SLUMP

(Continued from page 2)

The announced dismissal by Johnson of Westmoreland from his command in South Viet Nam only confirms American impotence to meet in full the latter's request for reinforcements. It is the means now at the disposal of the U.S.

On the other hand, this dollar crisis will inevitably have repercussions on the Saigon regime's economy. Financial and economic, already tottering, indeed, the Saigon regime, being taken in tow by the dollar, cannot escape disastrous consequences of the latter's bankruptcy. Unable to meet important American reinforcements, the Johnson administration is now seeking to increase the number of puppet troops. But this would

require more American subsidies and a new push to inflation. The Saigon currency given a 5 per cent increase in 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 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# **SOUTH VIET NAM: — 2 Urban Centres, Many Important Bases and 3 U.S. Motorized Columns Attacked by P.L.A.F. — U.S. Heavy Losses Around Khe Sanh, North of Quang Tri and in Hue Region.**

**I**N the last week of March, the P.L.A.F. continued to be very active around Saigon.

On the night of March 24, they gained control of the townlets of Trang Bang on Highway No 1, 45 km northwest of Saigon, and Go Dau, some kilometres farther, at the crossroads of Highway No 1 and Road No 22 leading to Tay Ninh. The enemy garrisons in these two centres were put out of action while five other positions in the region including a base and an armoured battalion of U.S. Division 3<sup>rd</sup> were attacked.

On March 25, a motorized column of that division (about 60 tanks, armoured cars and lorries) coming by Highway No 1 to the rescue of Trang Bang from the southeast and northeast, was intercepted and inflicted heavy losses by the P.L.A.F. (the column coming from the southeast was almost entirely wiped out, having 30 vehicles destroyed or captured). The P.L.A.F. fighters seized 4 armoured cars and used the

artillery onboard against U.S. aircraft. The other column had to vehicles destroyed.

On March 26, a third motorized column coming to Go Dau from Tay Ninh was repelled on Road No 22. The engagements in the Trang Bang region lasted until March 28 with heavy enemy losses.

North of Saigon, in Thu Dau Mot province, many roads were cut off by the guerrillas. From March 23 to 25, 35 vehicles including tanks and armoured cars were destroyed or damaged on Road No 27 by repeated P.L.A.F. attacks.

On April 1, at 15 km from Saigon the guerrillas closed in upon a puppet battalion. At the gates of the city, the port of Nha Be where important fuel depots were located, was pounded by P.L.A.F. artillery on the nights of April 1 and 2. Western agencies reported two petrol tanks burnt. Tan Son Nhut airbase was again rocketed on the night of April 1.

**N**ORTH of South Viet Nam, in the Khe Sanh sector, three attacks were mounted on March 25 and 30 against U.S. patrols who ventured out of their invested positions harassed by P.L.A.F. shelling. From March 28 to 31, the Yankees suffered 330 casualties and had 5 helicopters downed or burnt.

Farther east, a U.S. marine unit, hard hit on March 27 near Hill 461, lost 4 tanks. Another helicopter coming to the rescue of the survivors was intercepted and had about one hundred casualties and a chopper downed.

In the easternmost part of Highway No 9, the U.S. First Air Mobile Division was reported by American agencies as having taken 30 casualties in an engagement on March 26 near Dong Ha, and on March 30, a puppet unit and a U.S. rescue party were intercepted near Gio Linh with 131 casualties, reported the U.S. command.

Also in Quang Tri province, on the night of March 26, the enemy suffered heavy losses

at La Vang base and the C.P. of Hai Lang sub-sector.

**I**N Hue region, the U.S. First Air Mobile Division had at least 170 men killed or wounded and suffered important damage in the battles on March 24, 25 and 26 near the city.

On the night of March 26, P.L.A.F. artillery pounded the base of U.S. Marine Division 3 and Phu Bai, base of U.S. Para Division 101, southeast of Hue, as well as many enemy positions nearby.

On Highway No 1, about 40 km southeast of Hue, a puppet Ranger unit was violently intercepted on March 25, in Can Hai region and on March 31, many posts of U.S. marines between Can Hai and Treol were stormed. Western agencies reported two bridges blown up and 44 G.I.s put out of action. Meanwhile, in the same region, P.L.A.F. artillery hammered at two U.S. armor's battalions near Phu Loc.

(Continued page 7)

## **LATEST NEWS**

**I**N order to relieve Khe Sanh under siege for more than 2 months, the U.S. Command has launched since April 1, 1968 an operation code-named "Pegasus" in the western sector of Highway No 9. Units from First Air Mobile Division were landed on the hills which dot the rain-soaked road or in the vicinity of Ta Con, while a motorized column was progressing slowly on the road badly sabotaged by the local people. The P.L.A.F. beat back the besieged's sallies and attacked the rescuers on April 3, 4, and 5. Fierce hand-to-hand fights took place, lasting several hours. P.L.A.F. artillery played havoc among the enemy ranks. Initial reports put enemy losses at 800 men killed or wounded (most of them American), 9 planes and choppers downed and 7 others damaged. A U.S. Marine company and another of the First Cavalry were badly wiped out.

## **In the Liberated Areas of South Viet Nam**

Left:

— Watering of fields in Long An province

Right:

— A drawing class

— A shock youth brigade carrying ammunition to the front

